

“Friends of the Seafarers”

Tampa Seafarers Center / Tampa Port Ministries, Inc. Volume 1, Issue 7
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Caring for the Port Community

July was a very busy month for us at the Seafarers Center. We were able to visit 71 ships in July representing a mission field of over 3300 Seafarers. 31 Seafarers accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior in July!!! These 31 were from all around the world and these countries are represented in their numbers. Peru, Philippines, Poland and Croatia. That makes a total of 244 Seafarers that have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior so far this year. We continue to appreciate your prayers and support.

Grace Family Church 2nd Saturday

Grace Family Church continues to be a blessing to us through their 2nd Saturday outreach program. July 14th was the second group that Grace Family Church has sent to the Seafarers Center to help us out. This time they painted the doors and some trim. This place always looks so refreshed after the folks at Grace Family Church are done with it. (They even had Judy painting!!!)



A Chaplain's Presence can help.

In July we had a couple of extraordinary situations that really allowed us to share the love of Christ with those in need. One Seafarer from Poland arrived in port with pain in his left arm. He was taken to the hospital where he had to have bypass surgery. Wes and Judy were able to visit him in the hospital after his surgery. He was moved to rehab in Clearwater and one of our volunteer Chaplains Mario Biagini was able to follow up on him in rehab and make sure his needs were met. It was really a blessing for this Seafarer to have someone that cared about his needs while he was in the hospital in a foreign land.

The other situation occurred when a ship arrived in port and we found out that two of the crew members had died at sea. The incident had left the entire crew in turmoil and caused them to have a lot of questions about their faith and fate. They were so overloaded with sorrow and grief that they seemed not to know what to do. One of our Chaplains Christian Vilagomez was able to conduct a memorial service for the crew on board the ship and to bless the ship. The following day Wes was able to lead the Captain of the vessel to the LORD.

Chaplains represent God's presence in the midst of trouble and provide comfort, strength, instill hope and confidence. We were thankful that we had the opportunity to be God's representatives in these situations.

If you would prefer to receive our email version of the "Friends of the Seafarers" newsletter please visit our website and sign up for our email newsletter at www.tampaseafarerscenter.com

Volunteer Opportunities

If you're interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact us. We'd love to talk with you about how you can use your spiritual gifts and talents to meet the needs of Seafarers visiting the Tampa Seafarers Center. God has called each of us to partner with Him in reaching the world for Christ. The world comes to The Port of Tampa — we need people who will join us in meeting them when they are here.

Dispatchers/Hosts/Hostesses—Answer the phones and arrange transportation for seafarers to the center and make them feel welcome.

Fundraiser Volunteer—Fundraising is a never ending need for us so if you are gifted in this area we would welcome your help.

We are currently raising funds for some needed repairs to the facility. We need to raise \$25,000 for roof repair, termite treatment and a drop ceiling. Please pray that this need will quickly be met.

